

>f the rich fragments he left us, would be the most perfect and sublime that has ever been taught by man.

The question of his being a member of the Godhead, or in direct communication with it, claimed for him by some of his followers and denied by others, is foreign to the present view, which is merely an estimate of the intrinsic merit of his doctrines.

1. He corrected the deism of the Jews, confirming them in their belief of one only God, and giving them juster notions of his attributes and government.

2. His moral doctrines, relating to kindred and friends, were more pure and perfect than those of the most correct philosophers, and greatly more so than those of the Jews; and they

extended far beyond both in inculcating universal philanthropy, not only to kindred and friends, to neighbors and countrymen, but

to all mankind, gathering all into one family, under the bonds

of love, charity, peace, common wants and common aids. A

development of this head will evince the peculiar superiority of the system of Jesus over all others.

3. The precepts of philosophy and of the Hebrew code, laid

aside of actions only. He pushed his scrutinies into the heart

of man; erected his tribunal in the region of his thoughts, and

purified the waters at the fountain head.

4. He taught emphatically the doctrines of a future state,

which was either doubted or disbelieved by the Jews; and

yielded it with efficacy as an important incentive, supplementary

to the other motives to moral conduct.

(To Benjamin

Lush, 1803. F. VIII., 227.)

JESUS.—My aim was to justify the character of Jesus against the fictions of his pseudo-followers, which have exposed him to the inference of being an impostor. For if we could believe that he really

countenanced the follies, the falsehoods and the harlatanism which his biographers fasten on him, and admit the misconstructions, interpolations and theorizations of the others of the early and fanatic of the later ages, the conclusion would be irresistible by every sound mind that he was an impostor. I give no credit to their falsifications of his